

REMARKS

Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Support for the amendment to the claims 41 and 60 can be found, e.g., at page 2, lines 3-4, page 28, lines 17-18 and toward the end of page 30.

Claims 41-61 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for allegedly being unpatentable over Gehmecker. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Gehmecker teaches free acid ranges of 0.5 to 2.5 points in claim 1. Therefore, this is a clearly less acidic solution than is presently claimed.

Furthermore, the claimed range of Na+K content is not believed to be a sufficient alkali metal content for the precipitation of e.g. cryolithe. Therefore, as there is a flow of the phosphating solution, the part of the solution enriched in Al and F is transported further and then some time later there is sufficient Na+K for the generation of precipitates, but these will not be applied on the phosphated objects but anywhere else so that there is no deterioration of the excellent corrosion resistance as claimed.

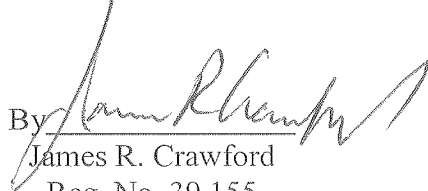
Thus, it is not believed that the cited references discloses the feature that has been newly added to claims 41 and 60.

In view of the foregoing, allowance is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 50-0624, under Order No. NY-DNAG-297-US.

Respectfully submitted

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